

Mitchell assigned as Alaska's state MARS director

By 507th Signal Company

FORT WAINWRIGHT, Alaska -- Chief Warrant Officer-Four Rod Mitchell of the 507th Signal Company, 59th Signal Battalion, was appointed as the state Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) director for the state of Alaska on Feb. 1.

The appointment was made by Army MARS Director of Regional Operations James E. Banks.

"Chief Mitchell was selected as a result of completing several projects in digital communications and electronics for the MARS program and amateur radio," said Capt. Michael Reeder, commander of the 507th.

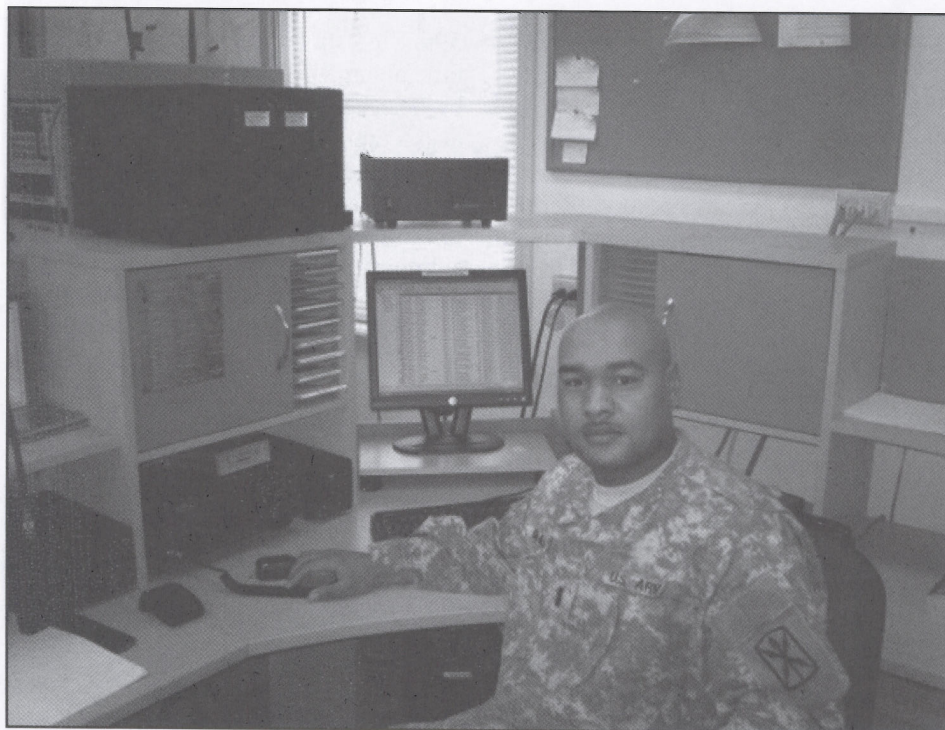
Mitchell has brought the Fort Wainwright MARS station (ALM7USC) on-line with the Winlink 2000 messaging system. Winlink 2000 was recently adopted by MARS. This system allows users to send simple mail transfer protocol (SMTP) messages over amateur radio networks.

Mitchell's tests have proven successful when integrating Winlink 2000 applications with high frequency, very high frequency, and ultra high frequency networks. The HF network proved reliable and dependable when used to send email during a commercial circuit outage that affected Fort Wainwright in late 2006.

Mitchell wrote a comprehensive white paper titled "The Integration of Amateur Radio and 802.11." The paper covers network connectivity for the ham radio Internet (Hinternet). The white paper focused on a wireless local area network that used VHF amateur radio connectivity for the wide area connection.

The document analyzed network connectivity from layer 1 of the open systems interconnect model through layer 7. The integrated network allows supported agencies to use familiar email applications such as Outlook and Outlook Express for sending messages through the MARS Winlink 2000 network.

The paper is scheduled for publish-



At the Fort Wainwright, Alaska MARS station (ALM7USC), Chief Warrant Officer-Four Rod Mitchell prepares to send a message to Glenn Hansen (ALM7AR). The message is sent through the Winlink 2000 Network via high frequency using the Airmail application.

ing in the May/June 2007 edition of QEX Magazine. QEX is published by the American Radio Relay League, of which Mitchell is a member.

In addition to experimenting with and documenting the Hinternet, Mitchell is also a member of the Amateur Radio Broadband Alliance. ARBA develops and supports emerging technologies for the purpose of promoting amateur radio as a benefit to society as a whole through the establishment and operation of emergency communications and remote sensing facilities.

He currently holds the State MARS Director Alaska billet call sign of ALM7AK. Since 2002, he has been licensed as MARS operator ALM7AQ. He is also licensed as an Amateur Extra Class Radio Operator, with the call sign of KL1Y.

Mitchell earned a Master of Science degree in information technology from Capella University. His current certifications include: Cisco Certified Network Associate, Cisco Certified Wireless LAN Engineer, Foundry Networks Cer-

tified Network Engineer, CompTIA A+, CompTIA Network+ and the National Radio Examiners, Master of Communications Technology.



The MARS antenna at Fort Wainwright.